

Amaranth Keystone Keynotes

DECEMBER 2025



Michelle Finisdore, Chairman

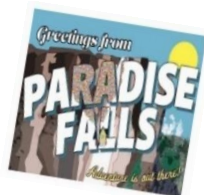
PO Box 1281

Southeastern, PA 19399

Phone: 610-220-9675

E-mail: handbellstar1@verizon.net

Postcards from Paradise Falls



Honored Ladies and Sir Knights,

Fall has arrived, bringing crisp air, colorful leaves, and the sense that a new chapter in our grand adventure is beginning. Just as summer invites us to explore wide-open roads, autumn encourages us to reflect, refocus, and savor the moments that make our journey meaningful. In the Order of the Amaranth, every meeting, fellowship gathering, and official visit becomes another stepping stone on this extraordinary path we travel together. And as the days grow cooler, the warmth of our friendship feels even more special.

Since our last issue, the adventures have continued at full speed. I've enjoyed visiting even more Courts across Pennsylvania, celebrating homecomings, and participating in events that highlight the dedication and enthusiasm of our Grand Court. From the laughter at the Eastern Trivia Competition to solving mysteries at our Clue-themed E-Town Weekend (featuring the debut of Gretchen Glimmer with her shiny cowboy hat and pink hair), each moment reminded me how much heart our members bring to this Order. I was honored to celebrate and support our Supreme Officers on both coasts—experiencing Napa Valley and Atlantic City for the very first time. Add several Grand Courts and a few memorable road trips, and the season has been nothing short of unforgettable. Every destination offered something unique, but the true treasure has been the people I've met along the way.

Of course, no adventure would be complete without its unexpected moments. Leaving my crown behind for HL Shelley's Homecoming (thank goodness Linda and Karl rescued it—and thank you to the helpful friends who secured a "replacement" from a certain fast-food restaurant where you can indeed have it your way); being renamed Gretchen and promptly responding to it; line

dancing at the Pound Party at Dorothy Lim; cheering as HL Emily won a dancing competition in Alabama; and admiring HL Miranda's full commitment to her acting role at E-Town—all of these memories have added fun and flair to this journey.

Now we head into the final activities of 2025: our last Official Visit, the GRM/GRP Christmas Luncheon, and Grand Lodge. As we embrace the beauty of fall, may we also embrace every opportunity to serve, uplift, and inspire. I remain incredibly honored to serve as your Grand Royal Matron, and I'm grateful for each of you who walks this path beside me. In the words of a cherished friend, *"Have fun, do good."* It's the best way to keep our Order strong, growing, and shining brightly into the season ahead.

In Amaranth Love

Stacy Anthony, GRM

Campfire Chats



As we enter this Christmas season, our thoughts naturally turn to togetherness, gratitude, and the quiet joy that comes from lifting one another up. Throughout this year, we have spoken often about the power of visible and meaningful service—service that strengthens our communities, opens the door for new members, and reminds the world of the values that define the Order of the Amaranth.

The holidays give us an even clearer lens through which to see those ideals. This is a season built on giving, on compassion, and on sharing what we have—whether it is time, talent, or simply a listening ear. Every act of service, big or small, is a reflection of the light we carry within our Order. When we serve together, that light shines even brighter.

We have also emphasized the importance of camaraderie—the bonds formed when we share meals, travel to visit one another, pitch in at community events, or simply show up because someone needs a hand. Christmas reminds us that fellowship is not just an accessory to our work... it is the heartbeat of our organization. It is the warmth that keeps our Courts strong. It is what turns neighbors into friends, and friends into family.

As we celebrate this joyous season, may we continue to show the world who we are: a family bound by Truth, Faith, Wisdom, and Charity, committed to uplifting others and to

walking this path side by side. Let us carry this spirit into the new year with renewed purpose—serving visibly, serving gladly, and always serving together.

From my family to yours, and on behalf of the Grand Court of Pennsylvania, I wish each of you a blessed Christmas and a season filled with peace, joy, and the comfort of shared fellowship.

Fraternally,
Matt Green, GRP

Celebrating Life



When people told me that the time would fly by, they were not kidding. Thank you to those who said yes. I am still looking for people to be part of our team with Committees. So, if you are bored or need something to occupy your time, let me know. I know that with the Love and Support of the members in PA, we can look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

I have been enjoying the traveling. It has been a great experience to visit other Grand Courts and to meet so many. I have made many new friends and have received many great ideas and conversations of new ideas. I am getting better at flying and enjoying traveling in a six-passenger van with great friends. I would recommend the experience to anyone.

No one should walk alone and that never occurs with an Amaranth Friend by your side. Celebrate Life each day and the memories will fill your heart with joy.

Love Always
Shirley Naulty, GAM

Hear That Thunder

I hope everyone is having a safe and fun autumn season. We are now in the middle of the holiday season with piles of candy, chasing down turkeys and wrapping gifts for others.



Over the last few months, there were a couple of official visits, a couple of luncheons including one for our Grand Conductress where she revealed who her choice as her patron was. We also had fun activities such craft fairs.

As we plow through winter, it seems as time is speeding up toward Grand Court which will be here in April. I am looking forward to the holidays, the homecoming of our Grand Associate Matron, H.L. Shirley at the end of January and all other visits and activities that are upcoming.

Let us all join together as a Thundering Herd as we stampede toward that day when Diabetes is just a memory!

Howard Naulty, GAP

Tales of the Sand Dollar



So much has happened since my last letter. I attended the Grand Court of North Carolina, we had a large PA delegation there, about 12 of us in attendance. Next was the official visit and friendship gathering of CT, NY and MA at my home court. On October 25, 2025 we had the reveal luncheon at Stouch Tavern thank you to the Sand Dollies for a wonderful luncheon. Where I announced my chosen SK to accompany me to the throne.



Thank you to SK J. Michael Stoner for saying yes to accompany me on this journey. Kermit has been given to HL Shelley with a few snacks for the trip to Pittsburgh. It was special to have my Supreme Mom in attendance that day HL Hollie Dahm-Stivers SC and SK Richard Whidden, Jr as my Supreme Dad if elected in June. It was also special to have many friends and my New Jersey counterpart HL Martha Hudson GC to help celebrate with me.

With Fall here we have a few more official visits and luncheons, and installation of a new Grand Master and 2025 will end. I want you and your families to have a Blessed Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. I leave you with this thought: "Stroll along the sand dollar shore with your feet in the sand, waves lapping over your toes, soon you will find a sand dollar meant for you. Held within are 5 magical dove shapes, each

releasing an energy gifted from the ocean: Radiance, Freedom, Nature, Beauty & Peace”.

In Amaranth Love and Service,
Melody Newhard-Kirk, GC

Stories from the Shoe Closet

During this season of giving thanks, receiving joy and finding those moments of peace, I am reminded daily of the love and support from so many of you.

While I have been unable to be present at some itinerary events due to my son's hospitalization, both Corinthian and Oakdale Courts Official Visits were close enough for me to attend. It's always nice to spend time with the Grand Royal Matron and Grand Royal Patron and the hugs were very much needed.

I attended the reception of Claudia Wilms, Supreme Associate Conductress, in Atlantic City and was honored to present a love gift on behalf of the “Imagineers” (the Grand Associate Conductresses).

I would like to wish all my Amaranth family Happy Holidays and a very healthy and Happy New Year!

In Amaranth Love,
Shelley Krall, GAC



Travels from the Ark

As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and dedication throughout the year. Being part of the Amaranth family means sharing friendship,



kindness, and generosity, and I am truly thankful for each and every one of you.

May this festive season bring you and your loved one's joy, peace, and good health. Whether you are celebrating with family, friends, or in quiet reflection, I wish you moments filled with happiness and warmth. As we move forward together, I am inspired by the work we do with the Amaranth Diabetes Foundation and the difference we make in the lives of so many.

Let us look forward to another wonderful year together, filled with new opportunities, cherished memories, and a shared commitment to spreading the name of Amaranth among our communities.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a prosperous New Year!

Stay well and be safe,
Emily, SAM... ... Think pink!

Jeanette Court #25

Warm greetings to all! I watched lots of snowflakes flying around today, even white on the ground, winter is here. We are having a good year in our court. HL Carol, RM had a lot of successful fundraisers. This past Saturday, we decorated our annual Christmas tree for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. HL Sandra Kuhns, Grand Secretary, made all the ornaments from left over quilting materials and the mat the tree was sitting on. HL Pat made the now for the top and added cranberry beads around the tree making it extra beautiful! After decorating, we had our annual lunch, it was a fantastic day for all that helped.

Jeanette Court will be having our Christmas dinner before our December meeting and the Masons from the Lodge will be joining us. There has been talk about Jeanette Lodge closing, we will know more after the new year. I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving and I pray everyone has a peaceful, blessed Christmas. Happy New Year!

P. June Sharp, Grand Rep to NC
Court Reporter

Corinthian Court #35

"Congratulations to HL Virginia White and SK Sonny Clapper. They were installed at Corinthian Court official visit as DSRM and DSRP"

Todd Murray



Lansdale Court #65

Well, here we are in the last month of the fall season and soon we will have thoughts of sugar plums dancing in our heads. I'm sure by now most of you will have thought about putting up your Christmas decorations and getting your tree. Some of us are regular "I'll wait until after thanksgiving folks".

Our court hasn't been doing much these days just trying to stay afloat. In September, we had a lovely time with HL Stacy Anthony, GRM and SK Matt Green, GRP on the occasion of their official visit to our court. We all enjoyed each other's company after the meeting with some good fellowship time.

In December, we will welcome our own HL Michelle Finisdore, DDGRM when she makes her official visit to Lansdale. We will also enjoy our annual Christmas Cookie exchange after the meeting.

Lansdale Court wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and most of all a HEALTHY, Happy New Year!

Nancy Linberger
Court Reporter

Lancaster Court #70

Lancaster Court #70 is planning a Soup Cook Off and a Pound and Bottle Auction on Saturday January 24th, 2026 at the Lancaster Masonic Center, 213 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster.

Lunch starts at noon with soup, sandwiches, snacks and drinks. Tickets for the Pound and Bottle Auction are \$15.00 and

include lunch and tickets for the auction. Entry fee for the Soup Cook Off is \$25.00.

Tickets for both activities can be obtained by sending the fees to Lancaster Court, Attn: SK Matt Green, GRP, 102 Groffdale Road, Quarryville, PA 17566

We look forward to seeing you at our January activity.

Marlene Arnst,
Court Reporter

Amy F. Schmidt Memorial #104

Amy F Schmidt Memorial Court has been very busy settling in our new home at the Lower Bucks masonic lodge hall in Woodside.

In September we had our official visit and friendship night with New Jersey and Virginia which was our first meeting in our new home we also had dinner before the meeting and the tables had center pieces with the house from the movie Up made by Cindy Keaton and myself. It was a wonderful evening. In November we had a Thanksgiving dinner before our meeting homemade by our members on Thursday November 20th where we will give thanks for our members and the order of the Amaranth. Some of our members will be helping with the breakfast with Santa that Morrisville Assembly is having on November 29th can't wait to see Santa 📺

Mary Ellen Greiner, PRM
Court Reporter

Dorothy Lim Memorial Court #110

This year's annual Friendship Night at Dorothy Lim, Monday, October 20, witnessed some changes from our usual event. For the first time, the Grand Royal Matron and Patron of Massachusetts came all the way to Pennsylvania to enjoy the evening! Our pound party did well, earning a total of \$856, which was split between the Grand Courts of Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York for each state's charity project, Diabetes research.

Twice we took breaks from the pound party to fill up on refreshments and try something new—line dancing. Not everyone

was brave enough to get up and enjoy the music, but those of us who did have a great time (I did, anyway!), and others were entertained just by watching.

A very important day for our own Melody Newhard-Kirk, Grand Conductress, was Saturday, October 25, at her “Seafaring Soiree” luncheon, hosted by her Sand Dollies Club Board. Not only did we have a good time and wonderful food in a beautiful, historic restaurant, the Stouch Tavern in Womelsdorf, but H.L. Melody revealed her choice to join her on her journey to Grand Court. There was excitement and suspense as she wandered around the room with a boutonniere, pretending she couldn’t find him, and much laughter when she did! I won’t tell you his name here, because she is writing her own article, and that “big reveal” is hers to share.

The holidays are coming... Dorothy Lim wishes you all the best and stay warm this winter

Jan Jacobus, PRM
Court Reporter

Farrell Court #120

Greetings from Farrell Court #120. We have had a productive fall season with several noteworthy activities. The family picnic, held in August, was well attended and offered an enjoyable dining experience for all participants. In September, a representative from “Stampin Up” provided instruction on creating greeting cards, and each attendee completed four quality cards. The session was engaging, and craft night continues to provide opportunities for camaraderie and creative development.

Our September meeting introduced a new password reflecting a positive attribute to uphold. Following the October meeting, members participated in a white elephant auction, which was met with much enthusiasm. At the end of October, our craft night featured a Christmas wall hanging project guided by instructor H.L. Charlotte Webster, who kindly addressed all questions throughout the process.

This fall’s fundraising initiative is the frozen pie sale, with deliveries scheduled prior to Thanksgiving. Proceeds for the October and November Charity Cup will benefit the Mercer County Food Bank, and we anticipate matching October’s generous contribution at the November meeting.

The November meeting, scheduled for the evening before Thanksgiving, will conclude promptly to allow members to prepare for upcoming holiday celebrations. On Saturday, December 20th, prior to our meeting, Royal Matron Charlotte and Royal Patron Georgia, assisted by the month's designated Honored Lady, will host a brunch for officers and members.

We are also preparing for "The Polar Express" event, where approximately 300 children will receive small gifts accompanied by informational notes about the Order of the Amaranth and Farrell Court for their parents. It is our hope that this outreach will encourage greater interest and new membership petitions.

Farrell Court #120 extends best wishes to all Honored Ladies and Sir Knights for a joyful holiday season filled with meaningful time spent with loved ones.

This is a picture of our recent craft projects: the Santa gnome from July, the Christmas wall hanging from October, and greeting cards from September.



Georgia Perkins
Court Reporter

William A. Knecht #144

We've had great meetings in the last 2 months!

In September we happily welcomed back a member who has not been to meetings for a while and in October we celebrated the Official Visit of our DDGRM. The September and October Sunshine drawings were for the Unity Collaborative in Williamsport and Camp Mount Luther's campaign for new bathroom facilities. Monthly we take up a collection and draw a new organization that we send money to and use this as an opportunity to advertise our Amaranth Organization. This provides the opportunity for others in our surrounding communities to be introduced to our mission and organizational attributes.



November, we met once again at a local restaurant sharing fellowship. Always a fund night!

And now, welcome to the holiday season! Due to our regular meeting nights falling on Thanksgiving and Christmas we will meet on the **THIRD THURSDAY** both months and the social dinners will move to the second Thursdays. At the December meeting we will hold our annual Holiday dinner with members and guests.



December we will gather at the mall and provide a fundraising event of gift wrapping for Diabetes Research to assist the holiday shoppers. This event is always a fun time and very creative wrapping.

Kay Trick
Court Reporter

Victory Court #149

Victory Court is having a food drive at our November and December meetings for the Community Cupboard of Elizabethtown for our Community project this year. With so many in our community having to use the services of the Community Cupboard at this time of year it is imperative that we assist those in need. If you would like to donate any non-perishable goods please contact any officer of Victory Court.



At our October meeting all the attendees received a Trick or Treat bag as part of the refreshments after the meeting. There were multiple kinds of chocolate along with candy and popcorn. There were also bags for those with diabetes and they had all sugar free items.

We are looking forward to our December meeting, which will be the last Official Visit of our own GRM, H.L. Stacy and S.K. Matt. Both have had a busy, adventurous year so far and that will continue until Grand Court in April. We wish them safe travels, fond memories and good health.

Dianne Dean, PSRM
Court Reporter

Oakdale Court #150

Oakdale Court was honored to host HL Stacy Anthony, GRM, accompanied by SK Matt Green, GRP, on their Official Visit at our November Stated Meeting.

Prior to the meeting, attendees enjoyed a pizza party featuring four varieties of pizza and an antipasto salad containing assorted cured meats, various cheeses, and vegetables placed on a bed of fresh greens. The meal allowed everyone the opportunity to socialize before the meeting began.

During her remarks, HL Stacy spoke of her link to members of Oakdale Court through her Rainbow connections and SK Matt delivered engaging and thoughtful remarks to those in attendance. Both were given Honorary Memberships to the Court.

Following the meeting, to-go bags were prepared for the members, enabling everyone to depart promptly before it became too late.

V. Lynne Engleka, G.R.
Court Reporter

Youth Organizations

Job's Daughters

Hello everyone, my name is Kathleen Welper, but my friends and family call me Katie. I have the honor and privilege of serving as the Junior Miss Pennsylvania Job's Daughters 2025-2026. I am currently serving as the Junior Princess of Bethel #16, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. At the end of next April 2026, I will be installed as Honored Queen of Bethel #16.

I attend Upper Adams Middle School, where I am in 8th grade. In middle school, I participated in Leo's Club, Friends of Rachel's Club, Chorus (where I attended county chorus in November for the second time), and I am also a cheerleader for Football, Basketball and Wrestling.

In April 2025, I had the privilege of being named Junior Miss Pennsylvania Job's Daughters. My responsibilities include assisting with the Jobie-2-Bee program, which serves girls ages 7 to 9 throughout Pennsylvania. At state events, I work closely with the Bees, providing them with a dedicated space at Patton Campus



As Junior Miss Pennsylvania Job's Daughters, I am raising funds for Shriners Children's Hospital in Philadelphia by selling Highland Cow pins (my mascot) for \$5 each. All proceeds support the hospital. To buy a pin, email me at kathleenwelper@gmail.com.

Jobie Love,
Kathleen Welper
Junior Miss Pennsylvania Job's Daughters

My name is Sarah Hamm, and I'm honored to serve as the Grand Worthy Advisor of Pennsylvania Rainbow for the 2025-2026 term. I belong to Mount Joy Assembly #35. Outside of Rainbow, I am a junior studying emergency management at Millersville University. On campus, I stay involved by leading a weekly Bible study and singing on my ministry's worship team.



We are raising funds for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN), which supports 170 children's hospitals in the US and Canada, including Pennsylvania's Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Penn State Health Children's Hospital. CMN advances pediatric care, research, equipment, and family support. Our fundraising

relies on PA Rainbow pin sales, local donations, and partner organizations.

Throughout this year, I look forward to meeting many of you and discovering more about your organization. As a member of the Grand Court of Pennsylvania myself, I've already witnessed the value you place on genuine friendship, and I believe that spirit will thrive during my term and as I transition to adult Masonic groups like yours. On behalf of Pennsylvania Rainbow, I want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Hamm
Grand Worthy Advisor of Pennsylvania Rainbow

An Amaranth Christmas Blessing

On Christmas Eve, the star aglow,
Guides us with love, both soft and slow.
Like Amaranth that blooms so bright,
Love eternal shines through the night.

With giving hands and hearts so kind,
We spread goodwill, our spirits aligned.
In peace and joy, we find our way,
Through the blessings of this holy day.



The Order's bond, so pure, so true,
A Christmas gift from me to you.
With hearts of love, we lift our voice,
Together in this season we rejoice.

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I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the blessings for a Happy and healthy New Year.

“Love came down at Christmas, because he was born.”

In Amaranth Love,
HL Michelle Finisdore